

The closing of the second circle in the life of an autonomous-aesthetic phenomenon: Once the second circle in the life of an autonomous-aesthetic phenomenon has been closed can that circle be re-opened? If it can what are the consequences of so doing? Think about the fact that "Portrait of My Uncle" of Vladimir Nabokov was written in June of 1947 and published in The New Yorker on January 3, 1948. The closing of the second circle in the life of that phenomenon took place on a particular date between say the end of June 1947 and the date of publication of that work--knowing the actual date is in this instance less important than knowing that on a particular date between June of 1947 and January 3, 1948 the second circle in the life of "Portrait of My Uncle" was closed. Think similarly about the fact that "Portrait of My Uncle" was in 1951--having been added to and subtracted from by Nabokov--incorporated into Nabokov's Conclusive Evidence. That being the case how from the perspective of 1951 is "Portrait of My Uncle" as it appeared in The New Yorker to be regarded--as a completed work of art? as an artwork-in-progress? If "Portrait of My Uncle" was a completed work in 1948 what was it or what did it become in 1951? When Nabokov began effecting revisions to "Portrait of My Uncle" with the intention of incorporating that work into Conclusive Evidence did he in effect re-open the second circle of "Portrait of My Uncle" or did he begin effecting revisions to one component of that nonautonomous-nonaesthetic phenomenon which when completely formalized would become Conclusive Evidence? In order to answer those questions one must consider the particular nature of the revisions that were effected by Nabokov to "Portrait of My Uncle" subsequent to its publication in The New Yorker. If in adding to and subtracting from "Portrait of My Uncle" subsequent to January 3, 1948 it had been Nabokov's intention to refocus on and modify either a secondary contentual or formal component of that work in order for example to bring into existence a more polished so to speak copy of "Portrait of My Uncle" one would not be able to speak of Nabokov's having re-opened the second circle in the life of "Portrait of My Uncle." That however was not his intention in adding to and subtracting from "Portrait of My Uncle" subsequent to January 3, 1948. When Nabokov began effecting revisions to the 1948 work "Portrait of My Uncle" it was his intention to incorporate that work--when revised--into Conclusive Evidence and not to bring into existence a more polished so to speak copy of "Portrait of My Uncle." In effect-